

Missouri Seal of Biliteracy

2024-2025



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Missouri Seal of Biliteracy 2024-25

The Missouri Seal of Biliteracy (Missouri Seal) promotes active participation in a global society and economy by incentivizing, recognizing, and celebrating the acquisition of biliteracy skills and sociocultural awareness. The Missouri Seal is a policy-level commitment to develop proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation, aligning with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) goal of preparing Missouri students for a lifetime of success.

Missouri's policy meets the minimum criteria collaboratively developed by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the Teachers of English to Speakers of Languages (TESOL) International Association, the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), and the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL).

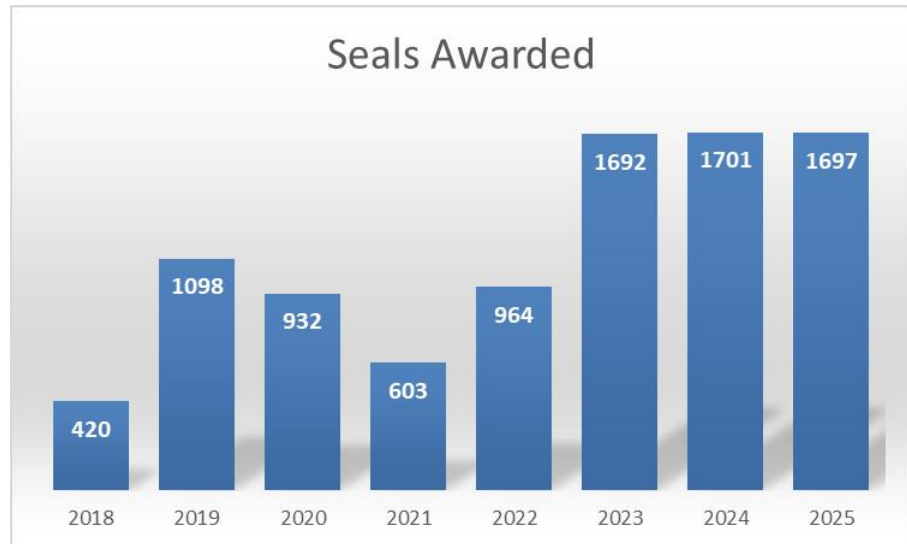
The Missouri Seal of Biliteracy is an award granted by a Missouri district/school to recognize a student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world language(s) before high school graduation. The recognition becomes a part of the official high school transcript for these students and serves to certify attainment of biliteracy for the community, employers, and colleges/universities. The Missouri Seal is meant to

- encourage the study of a second language
- recognize, promote, and praise students for their accomplishment
- value diversity
- provide employers with a means of identifying bilingual employees
- provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants
- prepare students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in a global economy and society
- strengthen relationships and honor the cultures and languages in a community



Students Earning the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy

Year	Seals awarded
2018	420
2019	1098
2020	932
2021	603
2022	964
2023	1692
2024	1701
2025	1697



Since its adoption in 2017, Missouri schools have awarded **8,774** Seals of Biliteracy.

Participating Districts/Schools

Year	Participants
2018	40
2019	65
2020	86
2021	89
2022	103
2023	114
2024	123
2025	125



Languages Represented

In the 2024-2025 school year, Seals of Biliteracy were awarded for proficiency in English and the following 40 languages: Albanian, Arabic, American Sign Language, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Chuukese, Czech, Dutch, Filipino, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Jamaican, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Loj, Latin, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Persian, Pohnpeian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Shona, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

Missouri Seal Award Options

The Missouri Seal of Biliteracy and Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy are awarded to graduating high school students in schools/districts with a DESE-approved Seal of Biliteracy program, who have demonstrated achievement in English, a language other than English (LOTE), and in sociocultural competence. The state does not require specific coursework to earn the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy. Missouri students studying any of the world’s languages are potential Seal candidates.

Award	Description
Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy	The Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy is for students who show proficiency in English and at least the Advanced-Low level of proficiency in a language other than English. Students must also demonstrate positive attitudes toward bilingualism and use both languages in a culturally appropriate way.
Missouri Seal of Biliteracy	The standard Missouri Seal is awarded to students who show a high level of achievement in English and an intermediate-mid or higher level of proficiency in a language other than English. Students must also demonstrate positive attitudes toward bilingualism and use both languages in a culturally appropriate way.

Multiple Seals Earned by Individual Students

In 2024-2025, fifty-eight students earned the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy for English and two additional languages. One student earned the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy for English and three additional languages. Nine of these students received the Distinguished Seal in one of the additional languages. One student received the Distinguished Seal in two additional languages.

Criteria for Languages Other Than English

All students must demonstrate proficiency in both English and at least one additional language other than English. Districts/schools determine the instrument(s) used for assessment and how to best fund the assessments. Selected assessments must be aligned with language proficiency levels used by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). A minimum achievement of Intermediate-Mid proficiency on an approved assessment taken during the

junior or senior year is required to earn a Missouri Seal of Biliteracy. Students achieving a minimum proficiency of Advanced-Low are eligible for the Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy.

Criteria for Language Proficiency in English

Students must earn a minimum score of Proficient on the English II End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. If the student does not earn a satisfactory score on the English II EOC, an ACT score of 18 in English or Reading may be used for the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy and an ACT score of 21 in English or Reading may be used for the Distinguished Seal of Biliteracy. An SAT score of 480 or above in Reading and Writing would also meet the requirements for the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy.

Students entering high school designated as an English language learner (EL) may substitute a minimum score of 4.0 on the WIDA ACCESS language proficiency assessment for the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy. To earn the Distinguished Seal, ELs must earn an overall proficiency of 4.7 or higher on the WIDA ACCESS.

Students are only required to demonstrate English proficiency through one standardized measure.

Students with a 504 or individualized education plan (IEP) are eligible for any specific accommodations written into their plan that apply to either the English or LOTE assessment.

Sociocultural Competence

Students must demonstrate high levels of sociocultural competence as it relates to English and the LOTE. Decisions on selected measures lie solely with the district/school and must include measures for demonstrating positive attitudes toward bilingualism and using both languages in a culturally appropriate way. Districts/schools develop rubrics to use in the assessment of sociocultural competency and articulate minimum criteria for achievement in this area. Some activities that demonstrate sociocultural competency include

- assisting a community organization with translation
- completion of a community service project using both languages
- active participation in multicultural community events
- an essay explaining how proficiency in both languages will help the community

Students Demographics

English as a First Language Speakers (L1)

Seventy-five percent of the students earning a Missouri Seal of Biliteracy in 2024-2025 were identified as English as first language speakers.

English as a Second Language and/or Heritage* Language Speakers (L2)

Twenty-five percent of the students earning a Missouri Seal of Biliteracy in 2024-2025 were identified as having a first language or heritage language other than English.

**A heritage speaker is an individual who grows up in a household where a minority or heritage language is the primary language spoken. An English learner is in the process of acquiring English as an additional language.*

2024-2025 Missouri Seals and Distinguished Seals by School/District

Only those schools/districts who have reported awarding the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy or Distinguished Seal to students graduating in 2024-2025 are included. Suppression has been applied for totals of less than 5 students.

For each school/district, the languages for which awards were presented are listed. An asterisk (*) has been used to identify the level of achievement reached for each language.

Academy Lafayette International High School Total Awards: 17

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
Spanish		*

L1 Speakers: 71% L2 Speakers: 29%

Affton 101 Total Awards: 16

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 94% L2 Speakers: 6%

Allen Village Total Awards: 7

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Bayless Total Awards: 5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Bosnian	*	*

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

Blue Springs R-IV Total Awards: 24

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 92% L2 Speakers: 8%

Branson R-IV Total Awards: 13

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Carl Junction R-I Total Awards: 10

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 10 L2 Speakers: 1

Carthage R-IX Total Awards: 37

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

Centralia R-III Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

Clayton Total Awards: 49

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Dutch	*	
Filipino	*	
French		*
German	*	*
Jamaican		*
Japanese		*
Karen	*	
Latin		*
Mandarin		*
Marathi	*	
Spanish		*
Swahili	*	

L1 Speakers: 65% L2 Speakers: 35% 6 Multiple Seals awarded

Clever R-V Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Columbia 93 Total Awards: 23

Language	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
Japanese	*	
Mandarin	*	
Portuguese	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 70% L2 Speakers: 30% 1 Multiple Seal awarded for three languages.

Diamond R-IV Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

East Buchanan C-1 Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers:100% **L2** Speakers: 0%

Ferguson-Florissant R-II Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 50% **L2** Speakers: 50%

Francis Howell R-III Total Awards: 59

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	*
Bulgarian		*
French	*	*
German	*	
Hindi		*
Korean		*
Mandarin	*	
Portuguese	*	
Spanish	*	*
Swahili		*

L1 Speakers: 64% **L2** Speakers: 36% **6 Multiple Seals awarded**

Ft. Zumwalt R-II Total Awards: 75

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic		
French	*	
German	*	
Hindi	*	
Punjabi	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 92% **L2** Speakers: 8% **3 multiple seals awarded**

Guadalupe Centers Schools Total Awards: 59

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Chuukese		*
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 100% **L1** Speakers: 0%

Hallsville R-IV Total Awards: 6

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 83% **L2** Speakers: 17%

Hannibal 60 Total Awards: 6

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 83% **L2** Speakers: 17%

Independence 30 Total Awards: 28

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 3% L2 Speakers: 97%

Jackson R-II Total Awards: 7

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 71% L2 Speakers: 29%

Joplin Schools Total Awards: 26

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	*
Hindi	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 54% L2 Speakers: 46%

Kansas City 33 Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

Kearney R-I Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%

King City R-I Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Kirkwood R-VII Total Awards: 43

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
German	*	*
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 97% L2 Speakers: 3%

Ladue Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Lebanon R-III Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Lee's Summit R-VII Total Awards: 125

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
ASL	*	
Dari		*
French	*	*
German	*	
Hindi	*	
Italian	*	
Mandarin	*	
Portuguese	*	
Russian	*	
Spanish	*	*
Turkish	*	

L1 Speakers: 94%**L2** Speakers: 6%**11 Multiple Seals awarded****Liberty 53** Total Awards: 73

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Danish	*	
French	*	*
German	*	
Italian		*
Mandarin	*	
Russian	*	
Spanish	*	*
Swahili	*	
Ukrainian		*
Vietnamese	*	

L1 Speakers: 70%**L2** Speakers: 30%**1 Multiple Seal awarded****Lindbergh Schools** Total Awards: 68

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	*
German	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 100%**L2** Speakers: 0%**Macon County R-IV** Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100%**L2** Speakers: 0%**Maplewood-Richmond Heights** Total Awards: 13

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	
French	*	*
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 62%**L2** Speakers: 38%

Marshall Total Awards: 7

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 0%**L2 Speakers: 100%****Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School Total Awards: 75**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
Mandarin	*	*
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 96%**L2 Speakers: 4%****McDonald County R-I Total Awards: 23**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 4%**L2 Speakers: 96%****Mexico 59 Total Awards: 9**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 78%**L2 Speakers: 22%****Neosho School District Total Awards: 16**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Pohnpeian	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0%**L2 Speakers: 100%****North Kansas City 74 Total Awards: 67**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	
French	*	
German	*	
Korean	*	
Portuguese	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 70%**L2 Speakers: 30%****1 Multiple Seal awarded****Northwest R-I Total Awards: 10**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
German	*	
Spanish	*	*

L2 Speakers: 70%**L1 Speakers: 30%**

Parkway C-2 Total Awards: 245

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	*
American Sign Language	*	*
Bengali	*	
Czech	*	
French	*	*
German	*	
Hebrew	*	
Hindi	*	*
Italian	*	
Japanese	*	
Korean	*	*
Latin	*	*
Malayalam		*
Mandarin	*	*
Marathi	*	
Persian	*	
Polish		*
Portuguese		*
Romanian	*	
Russian	*	*
Serbian	*	
Shona		*
Spanish	*	*
Swahili	*	
Tamil	*	
Telugu	*	
Turkish	*	
Ukrainian		*
Vietnamese		*

L1 Speakers: - 69%

L2 Speakers: 31%

18 Multiple Seals awarded

Pattonville R-III Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 50%

L2 Speakers: 50%

Platte County R-III Total Awards: 10

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
German	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 60%

L2 Speakers: 40%

Poplar Bluff R-I Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100%

L2 Speakers: 0%

Raytown C-2 Total Awards: 14

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Chuukese		*
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 36% **L2** Speakers: 64%

Republic R-III Total Awards: 11

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Italian	*	
Romanian	*	
Russian		*
Spanish	*	
Tamil	*	*
Ukrainian		*

L1 Speakers: 45% **L2** Speakers: 55%

Ritenour Total Awards: 17

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
Persian	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 59% **L2** Speakers: 41% **1 Multiple Seal awarded**

Rockwood R-VI Total Awards: 89

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	*
German	*	
Portuguese	*	
Spanish	*	*
Tamil		*

L1 Speakers: 84% **L2** Speakers: 16% **3 Multiple Seals awarded**

School of The Osage Total Awards: 9

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0% **L2** Speakers: 100%

Sedalia 200 Total Awards: 11

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Albanian	*	
Russian	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 27% **L2** Speakers: 73%

Smithton R-VI Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Russian	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 50% **L2** Speakers: 50%

Springfield R-XII Total Awards: 123

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	
ASL	*	
Danish	*	
Dutch	*	
Filipino	*	
French	*	
Hakha Chin	*	
Hindi	*	
Japanese	*	
Mandarin	*	
Norwegian	*	
Russian	*	
Spanish	*	*
Swahili	*	
Ukrainian	*	
Vietnamese	*	

L1 Speakers: 67%**L2 Speakers: 33%****2 Multiple Seals awarded****St. Charles R-VI Total Awards: 16**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
German	*	
Mandarin	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 63%**L2 Speakers: 37%****2 Multiple Seals awarded****St. John Vianney High School Total Awards: 8**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 50%**L2 Speakers: 50%****St. Joseph Total Awards: 23**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Chuukese	*	
French	*	
Latin	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 57%**L2 Speakers: 43%****St. Louis Public Schools Total Awards: 22**

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Arabic	*	
French	*	
Italian	*	
Korean	*	
Lao	*	
Spanish	*	*

L1 Speakers: 59%**L2 Speakers: 41%**

St. Pius X High School Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Valley Park Total Awards: 5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 80% L2 Speakers: 20%

Visitation Academy Total Awards: 9

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Warren County R-III Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Washington Total Awards: 6

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
German	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 67% L2 Speakers: 33%

Waynesville R-VI Total Awards: <5

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Webb City R-VII Total Awards: 16

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 87% L2 Speakers: 13%

Webster Groves Total Awards: 35

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
French	*	
German	*	
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 100% L2 Speakers: 0%

Wright City R-II Of Warren Co. Total Awards: 16

Languages	Seal	Distinguished
Spanish	*	

L1 Speakers: 0% L2 Speakers: 100%